

Program Overview



In 1993, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) began a pilot program to work with interested school districts to provide them information about integrated pest management (IPM) practices and assist them in developing an IPM program. DPR also conducted an extensive survey of school districts in 1996 to gain information about their IPM policies and practices. Governor Davis felt that IPM in schools was important enough to add a school IPM program to DPR's budget in July 2000, as part of his Children's Health Initiative. Governor Davis later signed Assembly Bill 2260 (the Healthy Schools Act of 2000, Education Code sections 17608-17613 and Food and Agricultural Code sections 13180-13188) into law on September 25, 2000. This law, authored by Assembly Member Kevin Shelley, put into code DPR's existing voluntary school IPM program and added some new requirements regarding pesticides, such as notification, posting, and record keeping for schools, and enhanced pesticide use reporting. Most provisions of Assembly Bill 2260 took effect January 1, 2001.

DPR also works with other boards and departments of the California Environmental Protection Agency and with the California Department of Education to tie IPM into related areas such as school gardens and environmental education.

Through its school IPM program, DPR is committed to facilitating voluntary establishment of IPM policies and programs in schools throughout California, while assisting school districts with implementation of the new Education Code requirements. How is DPR helping school districts?

- 🍏 **Establishing an IPM in Schools Web site.** Visit DPR's Web site, www.cdpr.ca.gov (click on the School IPM link), where you can download samples of letters to parents about expected pesticide use and the registry, and a template for the warning sign. Keep checking the Web site for additional information. In the future, DPR will provide information on least-toxic pest management alternatives.
- 🍏 **Identifying and training individuals designated by school districts to carry out school IPM.** DPR will conduct voluntary train-the-trainer programs so that those who carry out the IPM program understand principles of IPM and can train staff. DPR will also host regional workshops that showcase model IPM programs and provide hands-on experience.
- 🍏 **Assisting districts to establish IPM policies and programs.** Some school districts already are working with DPR to establish IPM programs. Currently, DPR is working with the California Department of Education and will soon post information on the DPR Web site about pilot programs. In addition, DPR publicizes its school IPM program at meetings attended by maintenance and operations directors and staff, school administrators, educators, and parents.

**How the California
Department of Pesticide
Regulation is helping
school districts**



Education Code sections 17608-17613

For more information about Education Code requirements, please contact Tony Hesch, California Department of Education, at (916) 445-5729 or thesch@cde.ca.gov.

To assist school districts, DPR has posted on its Web site samples of the annual notification and the register, and a template of the warning sign.

These documents can be downloaded at www.cdpr.ca.gov (click on the School IPM link).

Food and Agricultural Code sections 13186 and 13180-13185

For more information about FAC requirements, please contact Nita Davidson at DPR at (916) 324-4100 or school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov.

- 🍏 **Developing an IPM guidebook.** DPR will tailor an existing school IPM guidebook to conditions in California. Pests to be covered include insects, mites, rodents, birds, diseases of landscape plants and turf, and weeds.
- 🍏 **Evaluating IPM adoption in schools.** Baseline and follow-up surveys will help DPR measure IPM adoption in schools, evaluate what kind of outreach school districts need, and whether or not this outreach has been effective.

In addition to the activities outlined above, the law added certain requirements to the Education Code (EC sections 17608-17613) to be implemented for the first time in the 2001-2002 school year:

- 🍏 Each school district shall annually provide **written notification** with specified information on pesticides to all school staff and parents or guardians of students. The school district shall identify in this written notification all pesticide products (some products are exempt) it expects to be applied by district staff or an outside contractor in the upcoming year, and the Internet address to DPR's School IPM Program Web site (see below). (One way the school district may accomplish this is by including the information in written notices it already provides annually to staff and parents.)
- 🍏 Each school shall provide the opportunity for interested staff and parents to **register** with the school district if they want to be notified of individual pesticide applications at the school before they occur.
- 🍏 The school district shall **post warning signs** at each area of the school where pesticides will be applied. These signs are posted 24 hours in advance and 72 hours after applications and should be sufficient, in the district's opinion, to restrict uninformed access to treated areas.
- 🍏 Each school shall **maintain records** of all pesticide use at the school for four years and make the records available to the public upon request.
- 🍏 Each school district is to **designate an IPM coordinator** to carry out these requirements.

The new law (Food and Agricultural Code section 13186) requires that:

- 🍏 Licensed pest control businesses shall **report pesticide applications** by school annually to the Department of Pesticide Regulation beginning with applications made on or after January 1, 2002.

The law (Food and Agricultural Code sections 13180-13185) also added certain requirements of DPR:

- 🍏 DPR shall prepare a school **pesticide use reporting form** to be used by licensed pest control businesses when they apply any pesticides at a school. Licensed pest control businesses must submit the form to DPR at least annually.
- 🍏 DPR shall establish and maintain a **school IPM Web site** that contains information on pesticide products, a comprehensive directory of resources describing and promoting least-hazardous pest management practices at schools, the model program guidebook, and ways to reduce the use of pesticides at school facilities. It also provides the public with information about public health and environmental impacts of pesticides.
- 🍏 DPR shall promote and facilitate the voluntary adoption of IPM programs for school districts that voluntarily choose to do so, while it assists all school districts to comply with the new provisions of the Education Code.

For a copy of Assembly Bill 2260 (Chapter 718, Statutes of 2000), see <http://www.assembly.ca.gov> (Click on legislation and look for 1999-2000 session. Enter bill number 2260 and click on search. Click on the chaptered version.)